Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club – Boathouse 150 project Raises the Roof

The rowing club has now a refurbished boat house, as part of a 7 year project to make the building fit for the future, replacing the roof and windows, refurbishing the changing facilities and upgrading the building towards acceptable energy efficiency.

The Boathouse 150 project started on the clubs 150th birthday, with the aim to raise £150, 000 to refurbish the building to provide a fit for purpose training base for both Nithsdale Amateur Rowing Club and the Crichton University Campus Boat Club. Over this time the funding plan has also included replacing some of the aging boat fleet and put in place a club development plan which included Scottish Rowing accreditation all with the aim to attract more members, making rowing accessible to all and keep up the tradition of Nithsdale being recognised as the friendliest rowing club in Scotland.

The club was formed in 1865 and has a long and interesting history and important archive which the club has wanted to preserve, but knowing we needed to focusing on the future of the club by refurbishing the training facility to modern standards and prioritising making rowing accessible to all. The current boathouse on the greensands was built in 1962, extended in 1996. It is sited on the original club house from 1865 and one part of the original wall remains. It can be booked for community use and also welcomes other clubs who might wish to use the facility.

Throughout the three phases of this project since 2015 th club has been supported by a range of funding partners - the Holywood Trust, Annandale and Nithsdale Community Benefit, South West Environmental Action Trust, SUEZ Communities Trust , Dumfries and Galloway Council, Devorgilla Rotary, Barfil Trust, as well as individual donations and club fundraising activity. Club Captain John Dunse said ‘we are very grateful to the funders. A small group of volunteers have led this project and it has been quite a few years in the planning. It has been hard to make this big capital project happen but we are delighted to have the new roof on the clubhouse which will stop us having to dodge all the leaks in the gym. In addition to managing this project we have returned to a full training schedule from the restrictions of covid - all the effort and energy we have needed to keep this going we can now refocus to put into the development of the club. We want to bring on new members and teaching more people of all ages and abilities to row.’ The club regatta is on the 11 June, and is hoping to regularly link in with Guid Neighbours celebrations, and all are welcome to come and watch the racing

To find out more about one of the oldest and friendliest rowing clubs in Scotland, <https://nithsdalearc.weebly.com/>